Amendments to the Claims:

Claims pending:

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-17, and 21-23.
- After this Response: Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 13-15, 21-29.

Canceled claims: Claims 3, 5, 10, 16, and 17.
Amended claims: Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 21, and 23.
New claims: Claims 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** In a telecommunication system ~~configured to provide a connection between a caller and a callee~~ via an advanced intelligent network (AIN), ~~wherein the AIN is configured to connect the caller and the callee~~, a method for blocking future calls from ~~the~~ a caller to ~~the~~ a callee, the method comprising:

~~connecting a call from the caller to the callee~~;

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with the caller to the callee;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receiving a second instruction from the callee prior to an expiration of a predetermined time period;

receiving and identifying a ~~first~~ telephone number to block associated with the caller;

storing the ~~first~~ telephone number to block associated with the caller in a caller block table in a service data point (SDP); and

preventing, via a service switching point (SSP), one or more phone calls from the ~~first~~ telephone number associated with the caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller of the telephone number to block when the caller attempts to call the callee.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

3. **(Canceled)**.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving and identifying the ~~first~~ telephone number to block includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the ~~first~~ telephone number to block; and

identifying the telephone number using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

5.-6. **(Canceled).**

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method as in claim ~~5~~ 1, further comprising ~~prompting~~ determining that the second instruction is an instruction from the callee to place a call block or to perform an ~~administration~~ administrative tasks.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method as in claim ~~7~~ 1 ~~wherein~~ further comprising prompting the callee ~~includes prompting the callee~~ to record a message to be played to the caller.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method as in claim ~~7~~ 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising prompting the callee ~~includes prompting the callee~~ to select a pre-recorded message to be played to the caller when the caller is blocked from placing a call to the callee, and further comprising enabling the ~~caller~~ callee to record the message in the ~~caller's~~ callee's own voice.

10.-12. **(Canceled).**

13. **(Currently Amended)** A telecommunications system, comprising:

a service switching point (SSP) in communication with a first telecommunications device associated with a callee and a second communications device associated with a caller ~~wherein the SSP connects a call from the caller to the callee;~~ ~~and~~

a service control point (SCP) in communication with the SSP, the SCP having stored thereon instructions and data which, when executed, cause the telecommunications system to:

recognize a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from the ~~caller~~ second telecommunication device to the callee;

provide at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receive a second instruction from the callee prior to an expiration of a predetermined time period;

receive and identify a ~~first~~ telephone number to block associated with the caller of the second communication device; and

prevent one or more phone call from the ~~first~~ telephone number to block associated with the caller of the second communication device from being forwarded to ~~a second telephone number~~ the first telecommunication device associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller when the caller of the second communication device attempts to call the callee.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 13, wherein recognizing the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee; and

receiving and identifying a telephone number to block associated with the second communication device using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 13, further comprising a database in communication with the SCP.

16.-20. **(Canceled)**.

21. **(Currently Amended)** In a telecommunication system ~~configured to provide a connection between a caller and a callee~~ via a telephone network, ~~wherein the telephone network is configured to connect the caller and the callee~~, a method for blocking future calls from ~~the~~ a caller to ~~the~~ a callee, the method comprising:

~~connecting a call from the caller to the callee~~;

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with the caller to the callee;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

~~receiving a second instruction from the callee;~~

sending a voice announcement to the callee if a second instruction is not received before a predetermined time period has expired;

enabling the user to manually identify a ~~first~~ telephone number to block associated with the caller; and

preventing one or more phone calls from the ~~first~~ telephone number associated with the caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The method as in claim 21, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The method as in claim 21, wherein identifying the ~~first~~ telephone number to block includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the ~~first~~ telephone number to block; and

identifying the telephone number to block using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

24. (New) The method as in claim 1, further comprising removing a block placed on a specific telephone number.

25. (New) The method as in claim 1, further comprising sending a voice message to a caller whose telephone number has been unblocked.

26. (New) The method as in claim 1, further comprising blocking the telephone number associated with a recent caller using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology and blocking one or more telephone numbers as specified by the callee.

27. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising removing a block placed on a specific telephone number.

28. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising sending a voice message to a caller whose telephone number has been unblocked.

29. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising blocking the telephone number associated with a recent caller and blocking one or more telephone numbers as specified by the callee.